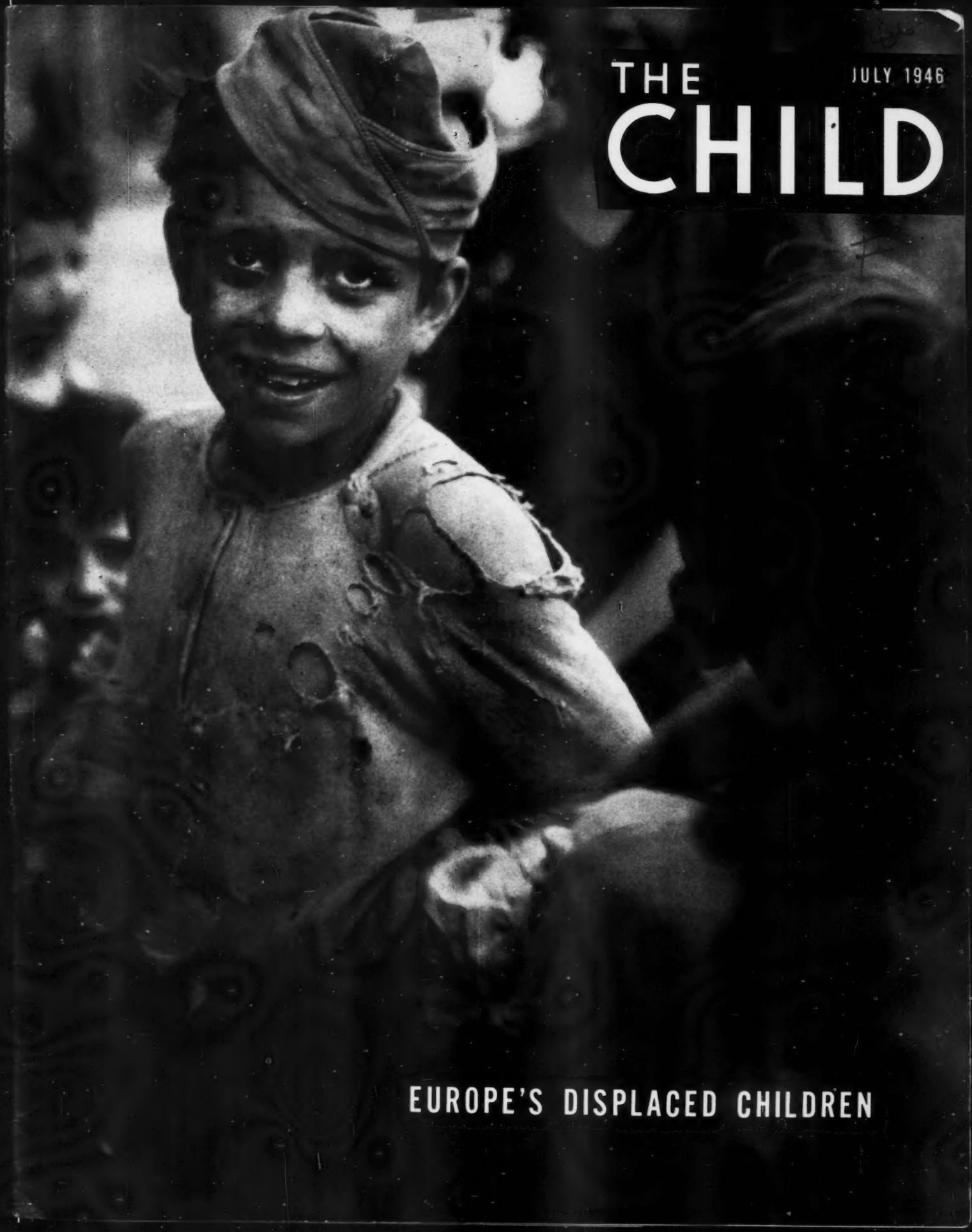


THE CHILD

JULY 1946

EUROPE'S DISPLACED CHILDREN

" - - - Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me - - - "



WE GAIN NEW CANDIDATES FOR CITIZENSHIP

CORNELIA GOODHUE *Division of Reports*

IN MAY 1946, 12 months after the close of hostilities in Europe, the S. S. *Marine Flasher* docked in New York with 795 immigrants aboard. This was the first time aliens had reached the United States by the usual channels since transatlantic shipping, the consular services, and international communications in general, had been disrupted by the war.

These people had experienced persecution unknown in Europe for several hundred years, but in other respects they were like their predecessors who came to America in the 1920's. They were not driven from their countries; they were not fleeing from sudden catastrophe. They had come because this was the country they wanted to live in. They entered under quota visas, planning to remain here and become part of America. There were old men and women coming to live with children and grandchildren. There were unattached young people. There were families with small children. The problems they will meet will be the problems their predecessors have met, generation after generation.

But among them were 67 unaccompanied minors whose problems are new in immigration and in child-welfare work. These boys and girls were orphans, as far as they or anyone else knew; they were below the age at which they could legally be responsible for themselves; and they were not coming to relatives or other interested individuals who would be responsible for them. They entered this country under a corporate affidavit of the United States Committee for the Care of European Children. The Committee guarantees that the children will not become public charges and that they will be under the supervision of operating agencies approved by the Children's Bureau.

During the war years the United States Committee brought children to this country under a similar arrangement. But those coming now are older than the refugee child of 1940–45. Most of them are full-grown adolescents, beyond the age which fits easily into foster homes or at which children are usually adopted. Moreover, these are children from the concentration camps; they have had experiences which few people in this country know how to evaluate. They have lived for years without family ties; they survived, by ways of their own, where their elders did not; they were surrounded by persecution and brutality, and made their own terms with it.

Estimates as to how many such children would come to the United States varied from a few hundred to several thousand. Opinions as to their mental attitudes and the problems they would present varied as widely. How had these children survived? Were they more hardened than their persecutors? Were they extremely cunning? Or extremely docile? Would they be listless and intimidated? Or over-regimented automatons? Or gangsters? Whatever outward form it might take, it was generally supposed that children who had not known a parent's protection, who had known only the slave driver, would not take kindly to authority. It was also expected that they would lie and steal since they could hardly have survived otherwise.

Not knowing how many children would come or what their real problems would be—knowing only that the children would be older adolescents, that they would be mostly Jewish, mostly Polish, and that there would be more boys than girls—the Committee got ready to receive them. A reception center was organized—a good kitchen and dining room; a play room with books, piano, and tables for games; and dormitories with three beds to a room. They planned to bring the new arrivals here, give them a thorough examination, outfit them in American clothes, introduce them to American ways, and learn something about them. After this each child would be sent to whichever affiliated organization seemed best able to meet his particular needs.

It is an accepted principle that chil-

Our thanks go to M. Ingeborg Olsen, Acting Director of the U. S. Committee for the Care of European Children, Lotte Marcuse, Director of Placement of the European Jewish Children's Aid, and Hilda Meyerowitz, Director of Case Work for the U. S. Committee's reception center, for their assistance in gathering background information for this article.—*Ed.*

dren need homes; that the less they have had of home life, the greater their need for it. But the age of these children, coupled with the type of problem they were likely to present, argued against foster-home placement. A number of well-staffed, well-equipped institutions for homeless children had offered their facilities to the Committee. To send the children to these institutions, in small groups, seemed the most promising solution. If this proved unworkable, there was the possibility of special hostels where they could be given exactly the conditions they needed. Whatever solution might prove best in the long run, it was felt that most of them should have group care in American institutions, for a while at least, if only to give American workers time to become acquainted with them. Because these children, whatever their problems might prove to be, would not be like the children our child-placing agencies are accustomed to dealing with.

Before the ship reached America the bare facts about the first group had been learned by cable—their age, sex, nationality, and religion. There were 67 boys and girls, 10 of them infants or preschool-aged. These were separated from the others at the dock in New York and taken temporarily to an orphanage equipped to care for young children. After a short period of observation they will be sent to child-placing agencies where they will be handled like other children of the same ages. It is not expected that they will present any special problems due to their backgrounds. The remaining 57, 51 of whom were 14 years or older, were taken to the reception center as planned.

A few days later the center was in full swing, boys and girls passing freely in and out of the building, finding their way to the corner drug store, mingling with the children of the neighborhood. At 11 o'clock in the morning the upstairs dormitories were empty. The beds might not have passed Army inspection but they had all been made up with an attempt at neatness. At the head of each bed was a chair or stool which served as a dresser. On these were treasures of all kinds—photographs, books, trinkets, and on one some loose change. Girls' bags were scattered here and there. Apparently no one expected to be robbed. In the laundry a freckle-faced, 14-year-old boy was pressing the jacket of his suit. He was having a grim struggle, but smiled politely when he saw strangers watching him.



Three candidates for citizenship, for whom social agencies will find homes, wonder what is ahead.

About 20 boys were in the game room playing billiards, ping-pong, and checkers. One was reading, and one was writing a letter. At the far end of the room a boy was playing the piano for half a dozen girls who were dancing. They looked like any lot of high-school boys and girls. There was not quite as much noise as 20 American adolescents might make; their voices did not actually drown the piano. And they ignored the strangers that came into the room, much as a group of adults would ignore strangers in a hotel lobby. But they were fine, healthy-looking young people. They were laughing and talking, obviously intent on the thing they were doing at the moment, not brooding on the past or the future. One could have found a more harassed-looking group of the same age on almost any street corner in the neighborhood.

That was in the play room. The medical reports, on file in the office, did not bear out the impression of robust good health. The children were all physically below par and in need of careful building up. In the office were also the UNRRA reports, and these too belied the appearances. It was hard to believe that those records—compact tales of horror on horror—could have any connection with the dancing, laughing children in the room beyond. It was impossible to believe that anyone could live through the things recorded there and ever laugh again.

These children were now 14 to 18

years old. Six years ago, when they were 8 to 12, they were taken from middle-class, self-respecting homes and herded into ghettos where they lived like animals, too congested to keep clean, without privacy or comfort of any kind. The children remember little of their real homes. But while they lived in the ghettos, their ragged, unkempt mothers told them how things had been before. Their father, who now did nothing at all or worked all day with a shovel, had been an expert shoemaker, or a merchant, or a professor. They had had a home with beautiful things in it. They intended to give their children a good education. The children remember these tales; they remember particularly the education they were to have had.

After 2 years of this, when the children were 10 to 14 years old, the ghettos were emptied and they were taken to concentration camps. Families were broken up. Men who resisted this were shot. It was soon common knowledge that the women and small children were being sent to the gas chambers, that only the able-bodied were being allowed to live. Many of these boys have seen their fathers shot, their mothers and little sisters loaded into the trucks whose destination they knew. Some of them slipped through the fingers of the guards at this time. They lived in the woods and fields of a hostile country, begging and stealing, trusting no one, always drawn to the centers where their own people were. One boy, after living for a year in this way, went back to his old home, hoping against reason that some other member of his family might be doing the same thing. The people who then had the house had been old neighbors; they recognized him and reported him, and he was caught and brought into camp. Another boy lived for more than 2 years in this way, but hovering near one camp after another. He would get a few words with the men going out to work; each time they told him that children were put to death in that camp. At last death seemed less terrible than loneliness and he gave himself up. Other children lied about their ages, said they were older than they were and joined the work brigades. One girl of 10 said she was 12 and escaped with her life. Her 11-year-old sister, equally conscious of what she was doing, chose to remain and die with the mother. In America children of these ages frequently have their movies and radio programs selected for them; they are considered too young for the ugliness of life.

Some of the unaccompanied children coming to the USA will find homes with friends or relatives.



These children from the concentration camps are not ordinary children, on many counts. They have lived through extraordinary things, and extraordinary character was required to live through them. Again and again, the record says, "the only survivor of 200," "one of two survivors of 300." They have met and handled successfully situations which the adults who are trying to help them cannot conceive of, and perhaps could not have handled. They have done this without help or advice from anyone. Self-reliance is deeply ingrained in them and they will not lay it aside lightly; in fact, until they know whom they can trust, they will trust only themselves.

Their self-reliance is their most conspicuous characteristic. It is in their postures, in the proud, confident expression of their faces. It accounts in large measure for the fine impression they make as a group. It is so firm, so all-pervading, that it is hard to realize how much of it is pure determination to live, how little it is based on any notion of security. Occasionally something occurs which gives the outsider a glimpse into the inner life of these children.

The day after they were brought to the reception center they were told to get ready for some inoculations. There was a noticeable nervousness and tension about them while they waited for the doctor. The workers supposed they were afraid of the needle and said the appropriate things. Finally one of the younger children began to cry. Through her sobs the horrified attendants learned what all the children were thinking—the little babies, who had

been separated from them at the pier, were already gassed; now the rest of them were being tested for something they could not understand. The adult Americans were almost unnerved by the story. But these children had carried themselves proudly, had behaved reasonably and courteously, while threading their way through a world in which such things are to be expected.

It is this amazing courage and endurance which makes these children unlike the usual American child. One of the boys at the center had some scraps of paper on which were the names and addresses of people he did not know, given to him by people he scarcely knew. He treasured these because he had no friends in America and supposed he would have to make his own way after he got here. Distant relatives or friends were found for some of the children and these came for them a few days after they arrived. When that happened the others became restless and uneasy. They supposed the time was coming when they must all go their own ways, and were very uncertain how to set about it. When they were told that was not necessary, that they would be cared for as long as they needed care, they were relieved but they did not stop making their own plans.

During the first week the children were at the center, they were very reluctant to let anyone plan for them. They questioned every step taken and frequently insisted on verifying what the worker had told them. Then, almost in one day, a change came over the entire group.• Suddenly, they were all asking for advice. Plans had been completed for half-a-dozen of them, who had therefore gone on to their new homes. These had all written back to the other children, and they had all told the same story—they had found everything just as they had been told it would be! This seemed to be all that was needed to disspell everyone's distrust. One boy who had been hesitating between two possible placements and who had been assured that the decision would rest entirely with him, came to the case worker and said, "I wish you would decide this for me, you know so much more about Americans than I do."

Even when they are most distrustful, their independence does not carry with it the difficulties usually associated with "waywardness." These children are mature in other ways, too; they are intelligent, reasonable, and considerate. All who have come in contact with them report the same thing: "they evaluate people and situations well," "they have unusually good judgment," "the children's judgment is excellent," "they have an amazing sense of values," and "amazing integrity."



Few such young children are among the groups being brought to this country by the U. S. Committee.

In one instance a boy of 17 objected very much to remaining at the center at all. He wanted to be on his own. Even if the worker had been convinced that he was able to take care of himself without any help, she was not free to let him go as long as the United States Committee was legally responsible for him. His record showed that he had escaped from half a dozen concentration camps. She mentioned this to him and said, "If you want to get away from us, we won't be able to prevent you. But if you do that, we will be in trouble and may have a hard time bringing any other children from Europe." That was sufficient for him. He did not want to injure them or the others who would be coming after him. He was willing to conform for their sakes, where he would not have submitted to what seemed an unreasonable restraint.

While they are at the reception center, the children are given as much liberty as possible—that is, the same liberty that would be given to adults who were part of a community life. This includes, among other things, complete freedom of choice in religious matters. Here the children's wishes are accepted without protest. It often happens that they change their minds after a few days, sometimes for profound reasons and sometimes for trivial ones. This also is accepted. A few of the boys said they had no interest in religion. One who had asked for a Jewish prayer book changed his mind by the time it arrived and did not take it. On the other hand, a girl who called herself Polish Catholic was fascinated by the Jewish kitchen.

She hovered around the door for a couple of days, and finally told them that her people were Jewish. When the Germans first came into Poland, Catholic neighbors had taken the child; they had forged papers for her and taught her prayers. That was 6 years ago. She had gone with this family to a German work camp. From there she had come into an American camp for displaced persons. She believed that her Christian status had helped her a great deal and she had intended to keep it, until the memory of her mother's kitchen proved too much for her.

There are certain people in America who would not approve of such liberty, or license, being given to children. But these young people are not children. And this liberty is the most precious gift America can give them. Nothing will ever show them what we mean by liberty and equality as clearly as this experience of classifying themselves, and reclassifying themselves again and again if need be, without any change occurring in anything that is done for them. Will foster parents be as respectful of their rights and liberties?

The United States Committee for the Care of European Children does not place children in foster homes. Children brought to this country under its auspices are placed with established local agencies who in turn are responsible for seeing that they get the particular care they need. The number of such children expected to enter the United States is small, due to immigration restrictions, and the number of agencies receiving them for care will therefore be limited. Many more families can be expected to seek a child for adoption than there will be children available. Families eager to adopt one of these children are urged *not* to direct their inquiries to the U. S. Committee, but to get in touch with their council of social agencies which will know which local agency is in charge of any European child needing a home.

The 57 adolescents who came on the *Marine Flasher* all asked to be put in families. They were lonely children and wanted to have people who belonged to them and who loved them and were interested in what happened to them. Some of them said specifically that they wanted to be in families where there were no other children, that they did not think they could bear it if there were other children who belonged more truly than they did. They disliked being in groups of their own age. At the center they objected to being taken downtown in groups of six; they said it looked silly.

Homes will undoubtedly be found for most of these. Other groups coming in may require different handling but some will go into American homes. Where that happens the foster parents should be prepared for the special problems they are likely to meet. These children are in no sense "delinquents." They are pathetically grateful for affection and return it warmly, and they will accept guidance and advice, but only when they are sure they can trust the person giving it. The foster parents must expect a period in which they themselves are on probation and the child examines them. They must be patient and reasonable, willing to explain their own positions and to listen to criticism. The adult must recognize the child's maturity; he can be guided but he cannot be overridden. Once the child learns that he can trust the adult, few difficulties of any kind are likely to arise.

If such homes can be found, other problems may be expected to solve themselves. The homes are the great need. But that is not the way the children see it. They put the homes second. The thing they put first, and for which they will sacrifice everything else, is *their education.*

Again and again the UNRRA records show that the child came to the United States because he believed he could get the best education here. Many of them actually came into the American zone of occupation, from other areas, for that reason. If anyone attempts to argue with them, to suggest that they might be happier earning than learning, they grow desperate. They claim that they have been deprived of their childhood and that the only way in which this can be made good to them is by allowing them to go to school now.

The U. S. Committee had supposed that during the first days the children were at the center, their time would be sufficiently occupied with the physical examinations, the outfitting in clothes, the games, and short trips around New York. Lessons would be provided later But these boys and girls were so intent on getting their education that they considered any other activity a waste of time. One girl, wandering restlessly in the hall, told the recreation worker—"we have been here 2 days and classes haven't started yet." That has now been changed. When the next group arrives, they will have classes in something the first day.

These children may be looking forward to training as a draftsman, or a mechanic, or a nurse, but doubtless the great majority want academic education. One 16-year-old girl, who has had no schooling since she was 10, is determined to become a doctor. She has intended to become a doctor since she lived with her mother in the ghetto 6 years ago, and she will not be put off by any talk of what is hard and what is easy and something else that is just as good.

It will cost something to give these children an education; if they are able to go as far as they think, it may be very expensive. There is also a question as to how much education you can give an 18-year-old beginner. But the answer to this is not obvious; it is something that will have to be found out, and the problem should be of interest to teachers. Such a beginner, obviously, does not fit into our established school system, and special arrangements will have to be made, for a while at least. But these problems are not insuperable ones.

If the children are able to go through school, they should be helped to do so; and whether they are able or not, they should be allowed to try. There will be some, of course, who will not be able to go on, but they should be allowed to continue school until they themselves recognize this and want to stop.

The problems discussed here are those presented by the 57 adolescents who made up the first group. Before these boys and girls had been at the reception

center a week a second group arrived—18 Estonian Protestant boys. Superficially, the two groups were different in every way. These Estonian boys had been orphaned and driven from their country by war; they had lived for years in the German labor camps. What they had endured was bad enough, surely, but it was not to be compared with the sufferings of the Polish Jews. These two groups had had very different war experiences; they were of different racial stocks, with different physiques, and different ideals. The Estonian boys wanted simply to be farmers. The Jewish children had put great importance on kinship; they valued a family tie however distant. To these Estonians a blood relation meant very little; a stranger was a stranger. What the next group will be like will be known when they get here.

But the differences are unimportant. The real problems for both groups, and for all the young victims of the war who may follow them, are the same. They are all lonely children with the courage and independence of adults. They all need, above everything else, love and affection from adults who will treat them as adults, as grown children. And they are all very proud.

One must never forget their pride. The worse the degradation they have known, the prouder they are. This is not a paradox, or a brave defense; it is the inevitable effect of what they have been through. Comfortable people are proud of their comforts but no pride in material things, or in success of any kind, can equal the pride that comes of being reviled and persecuted for righteousness' sake. Those families, herded like animals for slaughter, did not think they were the unfortunate of the earth; in their own eyes they were martyrs and died in glory.

The most self-conscious tradition in America is rooted in a similar pride. The French Huguenot, the English Puritan, the Scotch Covenanter, all gloried in the hate that had been wreaked on them. Their children sanctified them, applying to them the proud words of St. Paul:

> *They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword; they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented; of whom, the world was not worthy.*

We must remember that our newest immigrants are in this American tradition.

Boys from Buchenwald look very different when they reach America, are dressed in American clothes, and their faces brighten with faith in the future.





THE UNITED STATES HAS HELPED BEFORE

RUTH CRAWFORD, *Division of Reports*

SINCE JANUARY 1933, several thousand unaccompanied European children have been brought to this country by relief organizations, principally the European Jewish Children's Aid and the United States Committee for the Care of European Children. Various other organizations, among them the American Friends Service Committee, the Unitarian Service Committee, and the National Catholic Welfare Council, have likewise had a part in the undertaking. All told, though, considering the desperate plight of so many, the number that have come is surprisingly small.

The European Jewish Children's Aid, despite all its efforts and the great urgency of its mission, succeeded in bringing in fewer than 600 children from 1934 to 1943. The U. S. Committee which in 1940 was expecting to bring over thousands—32,000 British children were once reported registered for evacuation to this country—actually brought less than 1,500. In the fall of that year, the *City of Benares*, carrying British children to Canada, was sunk by a submarine, and after that tragedy, the British Government refused permission for any others to leave.

That the number of children brought in was small does not mean that the need was not as great as anticipated. The effort made is to be measured not by numbers rescued but against the difficulties encountered.

Who were these children who came to America?

The largest single group was the British evacuees. Most of the others who came were Jews—Jews from Germany, Austria, and then the other countries of Europe in the order in which they were overrun by the Nazis. All these children were separated from their parents and many were orphans.

Besides these two main groups—the British evacuees and the Jewish refugees—there was a third. Some 40 Spanish Republican children came from the internment camps in southern France. Others who came were less easy to account for, but all were children "picked up" by American relief organizations on the Continent, and all were children who were sent here only after a most careful consideration of their problem.

The American Friends Service Committee was among the first to act on behalf of these refugee children. So was the National Council of Jewish Women, and out of its efforts to find a way of expediting emigration grew the German Jewish Children's Aid, later the European Jewish Children's Aid. Since 1934, this organization has been the agency through which other Jewish organizations have worked on behalf of these orphaned and homeless Jewish children.

Then, in 1940, in anticipation of the evacuation of British children and possibly still some others from the Continent, the United States Committee for Care of European Children was formed as the over-all agency through which the efforts of many groups could be coordinated. It continues to function in that relationship.

Practical problems that would have

discouraged those less convinced of the importance of what they were doing beset these organizations at every turn. Not the least troublesome matter was obtaining permission for the children to enter. Ordinarily an individual affidavit, a pledge of responsibility by someone in this country for a particular person, has to be obtained and then approved by the proper United States consul abroad. Such individual sponsorship soon was out of the question. In the first place there was no time to get a visa. Secondly, most of these children had no relatives here, or at least none in a position to bring them here. Moreover, who was to come and how and when could not always be determined until immediately before the ship was to sail.

The European Jewish Children's Aid, until 1940, managed to work within the usual immigration procedure, but obviously, if any considerable number of children were to be brought over, the procedure had to be modified in order to get the children out while there was still time. It was, drastically. On July 13, 1940, the Departments of State and Justice, after conferences with the Children's Bureau and the U. S. Committee, jointly approved a revised migration procedure for children seeking to enter the United States.

Instead of an individual affidavit for each child, a corporate affidavit procedure was agreed on. Under this rule, the U. S. Committee made itself financially responsible for a group of children, guaranteeing that none would become public charges. Another requirement under the corporate affidavit was of great importance. To make certain the children would have good care, the organization bringing the children was required to work with children's agencies in placing the newcomers in foster homes that met standards set by Children's Bureau.

Thus a measure of public responsibility was accepted for the incoming children.

The corporate affidavit of the U. S. Committee, by cooperative arrangement, is now being used for both Jewish and non-Jewish groups, and the Committee has legal responsibility for them. However, while the children are at the reception center, each group assumes responsibility for the care of its own children. The European Jewish Children's Committee takes the Jewish children under its wing, and the Committee on Refugees of the National Catholic Welfare Conference does the same for the Catholic children. Aside from the British children, very few Protestant children have come. At the present time the U. S. Committee itself exercises full responsibility for them.

Prior to the children's coming, each organization, of course, had to be certain that suitable homes would be available. This could be done only on a tentative basis, since usually all that was known about the youngsters in advance was their nationality or religion, their age, and family grouping. Through local welfare agencies prospective homes were found and reported to the sponsoring group.

Final plans for allocating the children to cooperating local agencies were not made, though, until after the national organization had a chance to become acquainted with them and knew something of their individual needs. To provide such an opportunity, the children, on arrival, spent some time in reception centers in New York City. The only exception was in the case of some of the British children for whom plans had been made before their departure. Yale professors, for instance, took children of Oxford dons; an actors' group took actors' children; employees of firms with branches in Great Britain took in children of British personnel.

Where the children were to go depended upon many factors. If there were relatives, the possibility of placing the children with them was explored, or, the agencies tried to place them in homes near relatives or family friends. An effort was always made to keep children of a family together, in the same foster home or in the same community. Language also had to be considered. And, as in all child placements, the type of home available had to be weighed in terms of the individual child's needs.

No less than 113 local agencies in 33 States were involved in the placement and supervision of the British children brought in by the U. S. Committee. The children for whom the European Jewish Children's Aid was responsible were at

Millions have known no other life than one filled with suffering, starvation, and disease.—H. H. Lehman.



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one time under the supervision of agencies in 45 cities, in 27 States and the District of Columbia. The Spanish children were widely scattered, some of them going to Spanish-speaking families in Texas. Reports on all these children were sent to the national office, and through a field staff, close track was kept of them.

Placing these children required the highest skills of child-welfare workers. They had to work in the dark, or near dark, on many matters that are of prime importance in a successful foster-family relation. The child-welfare workers often knew little or nothing of the child's family, its customs, its traditions. Then, too, the experiences that many of these young people had been through—experiences far removed from those of both the child-welfare workers and the foster parents—made understanding even more difficult. Still another complicating factor was the age of the children. Most were young adolescents, a group never easy to fit into a foster-home situation.

Each group that came brought its own special problem. The British children made their adjustments more easily perhaps than the others, for there was less difference in culture.

All of these children, though, the British included, were living through one of the most harrowing of all childhood experiences — separation from their parents. The British had the advantage of knowing they would be reunited later. The others could no more than half believe that they would ever again be with those they loved. Sometimes their parents tried to prepare them for that separation. "You are a child in years, but you are not a child," they had said. "You, and only you, have a chance to save us all." The parents may not have believed a word of their injunction, but they knew that the separation would be easier if it had a high purpose. Many times, though, only uncertainty surrounded the child's departure, the fate of the parents being unknown or else too well known.

Many of these children—the British again were an exception—had been uprooted not once or twice, but many times. They had become wary of counting too much on anyone or on any home. They had seen people die; they had seen people killed. They had lived through bombings, many of them, and some had memories of machine-gun strafings. They knew what it was to live with people huddled together in uncertainty. They had seen human beings at their best, if fortitude is the measure; they had also seen them at their worst.

They had, in other words, lived a lifetime in a few years and now they were starting life anew in America.

Waiting for them here were an expectant lot of foster parents, all people whose intent was high, but people ill-prepared for what was ahead of them, for little in their own experience matched that of the children they were taking into their homes. Some of these foster parents were relatives—uncles, aunts, cousins—but they were little better acquainted than the others.

Both the children and those who made homes for them found themselves in a situation far out of line from that anticipated. Each would have been surprised—and shocked—at what the other expected of the relationship.

The foster parents saw themselves in the role of benefactor, the recipients of the love and gratitude of their young charges. Gratitude, though, is something youth has little of: that comes later. Love was not always forthcoming, either, though often strong emotional ties did develop. What happened was the only thing that could have happened: these children took the measure of their foster parents not as benefactors but as human beings and gave or withheld respect and affection on that evaluation.

The idyllic picture was frequently twisted awry.

There was, for instance, the problem of over-placement or under-placement. The hazards of placing a child in an environment socially far above that of his own home, particularly when his stay there was to be only temporary, were not to be overlooked, yet often there was no alternative. Only people in the middle or upper income brackets could undertake the responsibility, particularly when care might be required over a period of years.

Aside from the fact that these were not necessarily "the best homes" in terms of the child's need, there was the all-important consideration of the

Praised for stealing from the enemy, these children now have to learn that it isn't smart to steal.



child's own happiness. A child can be miserable in an environment in which his speech is different, his table manners or lack of them set him apart, the family's interests are not those of his family, and so forth; and an unhappy child is not an easy child to live with, as some of these well-to-do foster parents realized. The danger was, of course, just as great the other way around, that is, in placing a child with advantages less than those to which he had been accustomed.

Foster parents winced and in time were angered by the children's comparison of what they had had in Europe and what their new home offered. Sometimes only youthful candor was behind the remark. Sometimes it was just plain homesickness, and sometimes it was intense personal loyalty—an attitude frequently met, for building up their own families was the children's only way of assuaging their loneliness.

Loyalties these children brought with them, loyalties often undivined by their foster families, were at the base of much of the adjustment difficulty. Those who still had family ties were in conflict between their growing attachment to their new family and their sense of what was due the old. Loyalty on religious and political grounds had to be understood. These were children of women and men who had suffered greatly for their faith and their conviction, and their children were steadfast.

Besides these difficulties that had their origin in the extraordinary circumstances of these children, there were those conflicts of personalities that would have been encountered in any placement of a similar number of children. There was, too, the problem of relatives. A sense of duty impelled many to offer their homes, though they were not financially able to do so, nor were they temperamentally suited. When others took the children, the relatives sometimes interfered, and their influence was often resented by the foster parents as well as by the children.

Placement agencies also had to guard against those who would exploit the children. Some thought to get a "good strong girl" who could help with the housework or the younger children, and some wanted a boy for the shop, store, or farm. One woman, it developed,



Behind the rubble and rags, there's still a home of sorts for this child which is more than many have.

wanted a companion for her feeble-minded daughter.

Temperamental unsuitability of some of the foster parents also presented problems. They liked the idea, but they were often irked with the actuality. Some had forgotten what having a young person around was like, though they had had families of their own. Some wanted a boy or girl in the image of one they had lost. Then, too, there were those who saw the child as a refugee, and continually put him forward in that role, though it became wearisome and irritating to all except the foster parents.

Thus the venture in which the deep sympathy and high hopes of so many were engaged on both sides of the Atlantic turned out to be very human indeed. In most of the placements, in by far the most, though, the difficulties were met and overcome and the boy or girl was soon taking his place with other children in the family, the school, the church or synagogue, and the community generally. In many, many instances permanent ties, as close as in any family, were developed. Yet, there were those other cases in which foster parents wanted to be relieved of their responsibility; relatives complained; and children were unhappy.

Then, the importance of that provision in the corporate affidavit that required supervision of a child-placing agency was fully appreciated. The child-welfare workers stepped into the situation. Often all that was needed was an interpretation of the boy's or girl's behavior or sometimes it was the foster parents' reaction that needed explaining to the young person. Sometimes, though, the foster-home situation was impossible, and other arrangements were made.

In still other ways, supervision stood the children and the families in good stead. Unforeseen expenses, for instance, were borne by the central organization. One of the boys, in an accident, became paralyzed. The expensive care and treatment required over a long period were provided from U. S. Committee funds. A change in a foster-family situation—a move to another community, a divorce, or the foster father's going into the service—sometimes necessitated new plans. For some children boarding-home care had to be arranged; sometimes institutional care was needed, and when this was true the organization's limited funds had to be drawn upon.

Then, too, there were legal matters. Some wanted to adopt the children, and in some cases, adoption seemed desirable on all counts. However, the rights of the natural parents and others of the children's own family had to be protected even though their whereabouts, if they were living, were unknown. Questions of legal guardianship arose, as for instance, when consent was required for an operation, or for a marriage, or for a 17-year-old entering armed service. In these, and other matters, the agencies and the central organizations participated.

The experience, in terms of social work, has been enlightening to both the foster parents and the agencies.

These foster families were of an economic and social group whose only experience with agencies, if they had had any at all, was as board members. For most social work lacked any reality: it was something for people "on relief," for people unable to manage their own affairs. Yet here they were, dealing with social workers on their own problems.

The agencies, too, were enlarging their experience. They had to learn how to use "free homes," for one thing, and how to work closely with a group often quite different in attitude from those with whom they were accustomed to deal. They had a unique opportunity, however, to interpret the work of a social agency and particularly a child-welfare worker, to an influential group, and out of this effort made on behalf of refugee children, it is hoped may come wider community support for children's services generally.

Meanwhile, what of the children themselves for whom the effort was made?

They have had the protection their people would want them to have, and that is saying a good deal in the case of many whose hope for a future was once so slight.

The British children have now gone home. Some of the others have been reunited with their parents or relatives in other countries, and in some instances, their relatives have managed to get here. Those remaining here are well on their way to becoming full-fledged American citizens. At 18 they can apply for citizenship.

Some have already attained that status, and they are acquitting themselves creditably in their adopted country. The oldest are only in their late twenties, a fact to be kept in mind in considering the record they are making.

At least five are now instructors in American universities. One, at the age of 20, testified before a Senate committee as an expert on agricultural economics. The scholastic record of others is likewise high. Almost without exception they are intent upon getting an education.

Many of the boys, now young men, served or are serving in the armed forces. One at 24—"a little brat when he came"—was an Army captain in the U. S. Army. Some, ironically enough, are with the Army of Occupation in Germany.

The girls, like the boys, are doing what might be expected of their age group. Some are going to school. Some are teaching or working in offices. Some are WAVES and some are WACS. Some are caring now for homes of their own.

A considerable number of both boys and girls are self-supporting, or practically so. Some, with their savings, have brought their parents or their brothers and sisters to this country, and others are contributing to the support here of younger relatives.

Now, other boys and girls are coming, and it can be expected that many, many homes will be offered to them for these European children have a special appeal. In some ways finding the right homes or the right place for these newest comers will be the most challenging of all similar endeavors: the boys and girls who are coming now have had far more maturing experiences than those who preceded them.

Fortunately, there are those on hand to welcome them who have learned, these last 10 years, something of what is involved in finding and making a home for these young emigres. Their experience can now be drawn upon to insure the success of the venture not only as far as the foster parents are concerned, but above all, in terms of the security and well-being of these newest candidates for American citizenship.

HELPING CHILDREN TO A NEW START

CURT BONDY

Dr. Bondy's thoughtful cautions on the psychological needs of children who will come to live in this country grow out of his own extended experience and his contact with workers in Europe who are caring for refugee children. His work with such young people began in 1936 when he was director of an agricultural training farm in Germany. Later on he was active in refugee work in England, Holland, and Belgium. He knows the refugees from concentration camps from his own experience as an inmate in Buchenwald. Before 1933, Dr. Bondy was professor of social psychology and social pedagogics at the Universities of Hamburg and Goettingen. At present, he is associate professor and head of the Department of Psychology at the Richmond Professional Institute of the College of William and Mary, Richmond, Va.

SELDOM BEFORE have we faced such a peculiar and interesting task of education and reeducation as now in caring for the orphaned children of Europe who are coming to our shores.

Particularly is this true of the teen-age youngsters. During their tender years these boys and girls have led a life few adults here have ever experienced. They know privations, horrors, tortures, and death, in concentration and labor camps. They have made the fight for survival in uglier forms than most soldiers have. They have labored as only few men usually have to do. They are independent and grown up though they have many immature traits. They know little or no family life and have had not much regular education. They have lacked many of the influences which normally form the character of a child.

On the other side, these children have known mutual help, sacrifices for their friends, courage, generosity, and unselfishness such as only soldiers in the front-lines may have experienced. When they are distrustful and shy, they may long for love and understanding. When they are excitable and unstable, they may yearn to settle down. They may have difficulty in concentrating, and at the same time, be extremely eager to study and learn.

It takes skill in planning the future with boys like these three teen-agers who still have many immature traits though they are independent and grown up.



For the care of these youngsters we should use only the highest type of worker. They should also be able to talk and understand the children's language. Young workers should be secured as group and recreational leaders. From other experience we know that often group leaders who are only a few years older have an especially strong influence on their charges. All available knowledge and methods of case work and group work should be applied.

If properly done and evaluated, the work with the first groups can furnish us with a great deal of valuable material and new experiences which can be used for future groups, and in other fields of reeducation in this country as well as in Europe.

England has already taken in many children from the Continent. Their backgrounds are similar to those of the children coming here. Some days ago I received a letter from a friend who is working with a group of these children placed in a hostel there. Herself an inmate of a concentration camp on the Continent, she had worked there with children and accompanied the first group which went to England. One of the few difficulties with the children now, she writes, is that generally they feel that after all they have suffered the world owes them a living and that they have an unquestioned right to assistance and support. They know nothing of how difficult it is for most people to earn a living in peaceful pursuits.

Whatever we do for the children who come here, we should not expect gratitude. They will be antagonized by any effort to impress on them how much we are doing for them. To be thankful is something that few adults can achieve even under normal circumstances. Therefore, we should not expect gratitude from youngsters whose lives were and are already so difficult.

These children may present a paradox; they may resent charity and yet not want to stand on their own feet. We have encountered such an attitude from time to time in people who have endured hardship and privations in internment camps, who have not been able to care for themselves, and who have suffered for years at a time. The social worker in this country knows similar attitudes in people who have been unemployed for a long time.

All of these peculiarities should be kept in mind in dealing with these youngsters. They should not be transferred into foster homes or the homes of relatives too soon. For in many cases, families may have difficulty in understanding or tolerating such an attitude.

According to my friend in England, the older children themselves are of the opinion that they should not be placed in families. They want to complete their education and then get a job so that they can make their own living. All who were placed in the families of relatives, with but one exception, returned to the hostel.

Another point reported to me is an attitude which may be difficult to un-

Bodies and spirits must be rebuilt from devastated homes like this one.



Group loyalties must be respected in planning a new life for youngsters like these, encamped in North Africa.



derstand in this country. It is the "white collar" complex of the children; they have a very low opinion of manual work. Partly this can be explained because they have been forced to do slave labor.

On the other hand, they have an exalted regard for intellectual work. This may help to explain their strong desire to study and learn. Up to now, their education has been very irregular, and in many instances, they have had no formal schooling at all. Appearance—and especially clothing—is also given a value out of all proportion to its real importance.

Only a small percent of the young people in the English hostels have been found to be wayward, none of them delinquent, and only a very few mentally disturbed. During the first weeks in their new home, some were unable to sleep properly, but this soon disappeared. Bed wetting is even less frequent than in other institutions.

All of the children improved physically and mentally soon after reaching England. The change for the better could be noticed almost from hour to hour.

Here in the United States we can be helped by knowledge of the experiences with the children in other countries. But we will be wise if we keep tentative all plans for the children coming here until after they arrive and we know much more about them generally and as individuals.

The outcome of our educational efforts will be determined not only by the personality of the youngsters, but to a high degree by the people working with them, by the methods used, and, not of least importance, the "social atmosphere" in which the children are placed.

The question will arise whether gangs that have been formed should be disbanded. I am definitely against breaking up such a gang too early. These boys may have been together for a very long time, maybe the loyalty to their group and their leader is the only loyalty they have at the moment. One should try to convert such a gang into a social group.

Under no circumstances should the youngsters be forced to live in a system of barracks. They need to feel that at last they have found a home, their home, and that they are not in a camp any more. In a home-like setting, they will find it easier to quiet down and adjust to their new environment. We know how many of our returning servicemen need some weeks of peaceful life and security at home in order to lose their restlessness and find their way back to civilian life. How much more, then, will these youngsters be in need of rest and enough time to get used to completely new conditions.

Life in an institution—temporary or long-time—should be carefully planned beforehand. Though these children should have the most freedom possible, from the first day on, there should be a certain discipline and fixed order. If a change is advisable, it will be much

Proud of his Maquis record, this 13-year-old boy must relearn what peaceful living is like.



All these children, even the little 7-year-old at the far left, have behind them life in a Nazi camp.



simpler to relax rules than to tighten up them. My friend in England writes, "A law we keep foremost in mind and work hard never to violate is this: never make any promise which cannot be kept. That gives them confidence and security."

As soon as possible the cooperation of the boys and girls should be extensively utilized. Responsibilities and duties can be delegated to them from the very first. These should be increased gradually. The young people themselves should do most of the work and also enforce the necessary discipline and order. They should be convinced that every effort will be made to do what is best for them. English-language and discussion groups can fill one of their big needs—information. Their questions will be not only of a general but of a personal nature, too.

Although they may give an impression of being cynical and rough, fundamentally most of them are not. Behind such a front can well be a hunger for affection, love, and tenderness. These youngsters will be filled with distrust and sometimes will be aggressive. They should be treated with true friendliness and genuine personal interest by the persons working with them. These young people are highly sensitive and will quickly realize if an attitude is only a matter of policy. They need sincere affection, love, and tenderness, even more than those who have led normal lives. They need these every bit as much as they need food, drink, and shelter.

Thus the youngsters coming to us will likely be very eager to form personal relationships. They may perhaps act very grown up and independent, while wanting and needing a person to whom they can give their confidence and affection. Too often they have been moved from one place to another, and personal relationships have been created and cut off again and again. Now they will probably show a great readiness to accept guidance and leadership, and strong personal ties will be easily formed. They will need leadership of persons they can look up to. Though the feminine and motherly influence is important, especially the boys definitely need the leadership of men.

In the transplanting of these uprooted children, advantage should be taken of any cultural and religious affiliations, or of any interest in sports or hobbies they may have.

Any segregation should be prevented to the utmost. The more contacts the youngsters are able to make with other people, the better. This will help to prevent any feeling that they are still apart, that they do not yet belong. If they have relatives, and as they gain friends, they should be permitted to visit them as often as possible. Also, they should be given a chance to know different youth groups and to exchange visits with these groups.

Slowly, gradually, their lives will emerge out of the still lingering shadows. It will not be easy for them. It will not be easy for those who are working with them. But it could become a fascinating task and experience for both workers and youngsters.

Strong, these boys were able to survive Buchenwald. Now, the hardships suffered there must be repaired with the best kind of medical care.





Switzerland opens its homes to thousands of Europe's starving children.

REBUILDING LIFE FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

European and American relief agencies give a hand to children of other nationalities

FRANCES BALGLEY, *Division of Reports*

ANYTHING DONE to rehabilitate a country helps its children. Rebuilding the land, industrial plants, roads, markets, and all the other physical things adults live by helps to rebuild life for children.

But children must have more than a physical basis for living. They need to feel they belong to someone who cares deeply what happens to them. War killed that feeling of belonging in countless numbers of children who lost parents and close relatives. A first task of peace is rebuilding a sense of security for these boys and girls by finding new homes and encouraging new relationships for them.

Each European country has its own way of tackling this task for its own waifs of war, and most of them are reaching out to other children who have been uprooted from their native lands and families. We have attempted to gather here reports of the help that is being offered these children by government and private welfare agencies of countries of which the children are not nationals, and by four representative private American relief organizations.

Services offered to displaced children by UNRRA have been excluded from this survey. Likewise excluded are reports of the care being given by wartorn countries to their own children who have been orphaned by the war.

Information about the help being offered displaced children by the governments of European countries and by welfare agencies was gathered mainly from the official and unofficial representatives of those countries in the United States.

The four private relief organizations in the United States chosen to represent the many such groups in this country which are sending aid abroad are the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC); the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC); the National Catholic Welfare Council-War Relief Services (NCWC-WRS); and the Refugee Relief Trustees, Inc. (RRT), parent body of the American Christian Committee for Refugees, Inc., International Rescue and Relief Committee, Inc., and the Unitarian Service Committee.

In the main, these organizations have been sending aid overseas in the form of food, clothing, medical supplies, and other necessities. They have contributed toward the cost of transporting refugees, and of providing welfare, educational, and recreational facilities. All four organizations have representatives abroad to facilitate distribution. Some have staffed children's homes, dispensaries, and guidance services with professional workers as well as providing them with supplies.

Whenever possible, these organizations operate in cooperation with and through the governments and relief organizations in the countries in which help is offered. For example, aid sent to France by the NCWC-WRS is given to that country through Entr' Aide Francaise, the semiofficial coordinating welfare agency in France, which in turn allocates the supplies thus received to the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul who dispense most of the Catholic charity in that country. Similarly, the JDC channels its aid to France through seven major Jewish welfare agencies; to Belgium through Aide aux Israelites Victimes de la Guerre; and to people in occupied Germany and Austria through UNRRA and Jewish relief organizations working in that area.

The AFSC attempts with its material help to stimulate the efforts of na-

tional or local public and private relief organizations so that when these groups can operate under their own power, the Committee can withdraw its support to lend it elsewhere.

This survey does not pretend to cover completely all activities now under way for Europe's children. Countries which are themselves recovering from the effects of the war and are in addition offering help to others are hard pressed to keep records of what they do.

Similarly, many more services for Europe's children than are mentioned here are made possible by the contributions of the people of the United States through numerous relief agencies not covered. The agencies included in this survey and the services they render are typical rather than all inclusive.

Few displaced children are known to be in Albania and Finland. No information was available, however, concerning these countries' efforts on behalf of children of other nationalities. Nor was information concerning Portugal or the Soviet Union's efforts for displaced children available in this country within the magazine deadline.

Belgium

From 1939 on children of many nationalities came to Belgium as refugees with their families. During the German occupation many of these children were hidden by Belgian families when the adults were deported to Germany. Several thousand children whose parents have not since returned were saved in this way. Many of these children have since found permanent refuge with relatives in Belgium, England, and other countries. Those who are left live in special children's homes which are supported and supervised by Oevre Nationale de l'Enfance (ONE), the official coordinating welfare agency in Belgium. ONE delegates operation of these homes to Aide aux Israelites Victimes de la Guerre, which is supported also by the JDC.

The JDC reports that 1,446 Jewish children and youths were being cared for by Aide aux Israelites Victimes de la Guerre in April 1946. Among the 14 nationalities represented, the 953 children from Poland made up the largest number. The total group included 796 orphans, 347 fatherless and 158 motherless children. About 575 of the children were in children's homes. The others lived with foster families. Activities were in progress for the emigration of 270 children.

Belgian families have taken about 2,000 Dutch children from bombed cities into their homes for 3-month periods.

Bulgaria

From the fall of 1944 to the winter of 1945, about 12,000 Yugoslav children between the ages of 4 and 15 were guests of the Bulgarian Government. The children, most of whom were orphans, lived in schools converted into child-care institutions. Many of the children were sick and received medical care. Education was provided by Yugoslav teachers who accompanied the groups.

Three hundred Polish and one hundred Albanian children are recuperating in Bulgaria this summer as guests of the government.

The JDC reports that it is aiding 2,000 Jewish children in the country.

Czechoslovakia

Czechoslovakia, during the occupation, was forced to support 1,100,000 German mothers and children who were sent to that country to escape hostilities. Czech mothers were held responsible for the health and living conditions of their enemy "guests" who by decree received preferential rations. German children ate meat and fruit when Czech children had none.

During the occupation, large numbers of German children spent summer and winter vacations in children's homes in the Tatra Mountains. These children were evacuated back to Germany before the Russian Armies advanced into the area.

Czechoslovakia is now caring for 43,000 of her own war orphans in government supported orphanages. A few hundred German children are in this number. They will be kept in Czechoslovakia until some humane policy is formulated under which they can be returned to Germany.

The JDC helps support a children's home, a convalescent home, and a camp in Czechoslovakia, which together accommodate almost 700 children. This organization also financed, in cooperation with the Czech Government, a 3-month trip to Switzerland for almost a hundred pretubercular children. The JDC furnishes general aid to a total of about 2,000 children.



For health safety, Berlin children are moved to the country.

Four orphanages in Carlsbad, which house some German children as well as Czech, are aided by the NCWC-WRS.

The RRT helps support a children's home in Olesovice.

Denmark

Denmark now supports 210,000 "intruded" Germans who were brought into the country toward the end of the war for protection. They are housed in about 200 camps and are fed, and given medical attention. Schools for the children and recreational facilities for adults are also provided. The health of this group has been greatly improved, although the rate of infant mortality is still higher than the rate for Danish infants.

All Danish relief work for foreign countries is coordinated by the Committee for Coordinating International Relief, an official body appointed by the Danish Government after liberation.

Some 8,000 Norwegian children have come to Denmark for 6-week holidays and convalescence trips.

Members of the Danish Railway Workers' Organization have taken 250



Despite their own shortages, the British have invited thousands of Dutch children, like these, to visit with them for a few months and get the food they need for health.

children of Dutch fellow workers into their homes for temporary care. About 100 Dutch children of Jewish descent, most of whom had spent several years in the Belsen concentration camp, have come to Denmark for convalesecence. In addition, arrangements have been made for the billeting of some 3,600 Dutch children who were brought to Denmark for 3- and 4-month visits in groups.

Some 300 Belgian children were billeted in Denmark for 3 months and transportation home was provided for some.

After VE-day 872 French children spent 2-month vacations in Denmark. About 600 more were expected to come last spring to be followed by some 500 Polish children who were expected to spend the summer in Danish camps.

Denmark has also sent aid of various kinds to children in other countries. At one time during the war 80,000 children in Norway were fed by Danish food shipments.

Children in Belgium were the main beneficiaries of food shipped to that country during the war and right after VE-day. During the winter of 1945–46 additional food was shipped to supplement the feeding of 4,000 school children in workers' districts.

Last winter 15,000 children in Paris received Danish food.

Since February of this year, 3,000 children in a suburb of Danzig, Poland, have been fed. The number is to be increased to 4,000 and distribution will continue for a year.

Food parcels have been sent to children in northern Italy; a meal a day has been served to 2,400 children in Hungary for a period of 5 months; and a gift of 100,000 food parcels for children has been accepted by the Soviet Union.

Denmark has also been very active in providing transportation for refugees of all nationalities to Denmark and elsewhere.

Eire

In the fall of 1945 about 100 French Catholic children between the ages of 10 and 15 came to Ireland under the auspices of the Irish Red Cross. They are expected to remain for a year and may remain longer. The children, not all of whom are orphans, live with private families and are supported either by the family or the Red Cross. Education is provided by the latter.

About 100 German Catholic orphans between 10 and 15, taken from the British zone of occupation, are in Ireland this summer. They are cared for and educated in special institutions supported by the Red Cross.

France

Displaced unaccompanied children in France and in the French zone of occupation are treated as though they were French orphans. They are cared for by Assistance Publique a l'Enfance, a semi-governmental welfare organization, or by other welfare organizations, such as the semi-official Entr' Aide Francaise which is supported by voluntary contributions and government subsidy. The children live in orphanages or are placed with foster families.

Abandoned children found in other parts of Germany, one of whose parents is found to be French are being brought back to France by the French Red Cross. If the child's French parent can be found, the child is reunited with him. Children for whom no parent can be found are given to Assistance a l'Enfance, which shelters them until they are adopted by private families. Adoption procedures are being simplified for this group.

Oeuvre de Secours aux Enfants (OSE), a welfare organization which is supported both by the government and the JDC, is doing a large job for displaced unaccompanied and French orphaned children. OSE operates 20 children's homes and 26 dispensaries. In addition, OSE provides medical attention and specialized supervision for several thousand children not under its direct care.

In addition to the support given the OSE, the JDC supports 6 other welfare organizations in France. In all, some 10,500 children under 18 were being helped by JDC funds at the beginning of 1946. Almost equal numbers of these children were living in children's homes, with foster families, and with their own families.

The AFSC reports that it has fed children of stateless and Spanish families, and in 1944–45 assisted unaccompanied children in large refugee camps. Displaced children who accompanied American Army personnel returning from Central Europe were given into the care of the AFSC at Le Havre. After being registered so that their families might be sought, these children were transferred to the care of established French agencies. The Committee also gave supplementary care to Hungarian children found in Axis prisoner-of-war camps near Dieppe and representations were made through the International Red Cross for their release as minors and repatriation to Hungary. Children passing through France in transit to Palestine have received clothing from the AFSC. Some 20,000 children are fed daily by the AFSC through its package service. Some 50,000 children have been clothed.

The RRT offers food, clothing, and medical care to about 200 children of French and other nationalities at 2 children's homes, and to 350 children of all ages at a preventorium. In addition, it supports a children's home at Clairaic which shelters 45 children between the ages of 9 and 12, half of whom are displaced. At Megane, the RRT is starting a new home which will specialize in occupational therapy for nervously disturbed children. About 40 children will be accommodated at one time.

Children from Austria, and Central European and Spanish refugee children spend 6-month vacations at a home at Samoens which is also staffed and completely supported by the RRT.

Germany and Austria

JDC teams and RRT personnel are operating in Germany and Austria in cooperation with UNRRA, and are participating in all efforts to evacuate children from displaced persons camps. Between the end of hostilities and the first week in November 1945, JDC had evacuated 1,659 children from the area to France, England, Switzerland, and Italy.

The JDC is now supporting a child-care home near Hamburg which shelters 220 children brought there from the Belsen concentration camp.

Two AFSC representatives were pioneers in developing searching teams to locate Allied children in Germany. Cash grants have been given to the International Red Cross for displaced children in transit to the Russian zone of occupation. A relief team of AFSC workers is also administering temporary relief in Austria to German children in transit back to Germany.

The NCWC-WRS assists UNRRA with the support of 50 Polish orphans in an orphanage at Salsburg.

Great Britain

During the war, Great Britain was a haven for great numbers of refugees, some of whom were unaccompanied children who were taken care of under the "War Refugee Scheme" set up by the Home Office in 1940.

Early in 1945 the British and Dutch Governments agreed that the Dutch Government might send a maximum of 20,000 children, not more than 2,000 at any one time, for temporary care in Britain. Some 7,500 Dutch children have come to England during the first year of this plan's operation. The children stay at hostels in the country for 2 or 3 months and then board with private families for 8 weeks. All expenses are paid by the Dutch Government which also sends teachers and helpers to accompany the children. The British Women's Volunteer Services has provided those children who need it with new clothing on their arrival in Britain.

Four hundred and fifty "lost" Jewish children are now sheltered in Britain. Three hundred children from the Theresienstadt concentration camp were flown to England by the Royal Air Force in August 1945. The majority of these children were Polish, but Hungarian, German, and Austrian children were also in the group. In October, 150 children from the Belsen concentration camp joined them at hostels in the English Lake District. These children are in England for temporary care pending

American food and care will pull this small Austrian, a victim of tuberculosis, back to health.





A group of Serbian boys, guests of the Swiss for a three-month period of supervised recreation and work, wash up at camp before getting their nourishing meal.

resettlement elsewhere, under the protection of the Jewish Refugee Committee and the Central Jewish Fund, to which the JDC also gives support. The children are receiving medical attention and general aid and rehabilitation, and will emigrate to other countries or may return to their native lands when conditions permit.

The Displaced Persons Division of the British Element of the Allied Commission in Austria has always accorded prior consideration to the care of homeless and lost children of non-Austrian nationality displaced in the British zone of Austria or rendered stateless by the war. As of March 1946, 9,250 such children were receiving special care in displaced-persons camps.

A special orphanage and three therapeutic centers for undernourished children are supported. No distinction is made in these homes between ex-enemy and United Nations nationals.

Plans are under way to repatriate 600 German children to friends or families in Berlin, and 100 Czechoslovak orphans to friends and relatives in that country. A home is also being sought in France for 49 French orphaned boys now living in the British zone.

Great Britain has formulated a policy to govern the entry of young Europeans in the future. On November 13, 1945, it was announced that "females under 21 with their children if any, and males under 18, who have no relatives to look after them abroad, but have a relative in the United Kingdom able and willing to take them into his household" will be admitted. Admissions will be subject to time limits to be reviewed periodically.

Also to be admitted under this plan are "other distressed persons who have been in hiding from the Gestapo or for various reasons are especially in need of care." This provision may allow additional unaccompanied children from concentration camps to enter the country even though they have no relatives there.

In November 1945, Britain also announced that naturalization, suspended during the war, would be resumed.

Greece

Very few displaced children are now in Greece.

Greece's Jewish children are aided by a general relief program conducted under the supervision of the local JDC representative.

RRT personnel, attached to UNRRA in Athens, assists with child-care activities.

Hungary

About 12,000 Jewish children under 18 are receiving general aid through the JDC. About 3,500, most of whom are half orphans, are living in 44 JDC supported children's homes. Many others are supported individually. JDC also distributes food in schools and gives vocational training to children over 14.

Italy

About 30 Polish orphans in civil refugee camps receive aid from the NCWC-WRS.

The RRT operates a children's clinic in Rome which dispenses special medical care to displaced children. Many are natives of Yugoslavia, Poland, Spain, and Central Europe. The clinic has recently expanded into a day boarding school.

In cooperation with UNRRA, the RRT supports a hospital in Naples which cares for 200 babies. Food and clothing have been given to the city's children.



Fed, clothed, and cared for in an American center, these children are back on the road to good health.

About 1,800 Jewish children under 18 in Italy are receiving general aid from the JDC. This number includes 300 children brought to Italy from Germany and Austria.

The Netherlands

Immediately after the country's liberation from German occupation several thousand unaccompanied children came to Holland. Though many of these were Dutch children who had previously been deported, many were of other nationalities. These children were cared for in camps run by the Netherlands Civil Affairs Administration.

Norway

Children born to displaced persons in Norway during the war may remain in Norway if they choose, or go to Allied countries.

Children born in Norway of German or other enemy aliens must return to their respective countries.

Poland

About 5,000 Polish Jewish children under 18 receive some kind of aid from the JDC which supports TOZ, a medical and child care agency. Institutional care, education, and medical and psychiatric treatment, are among the services offered.

The RRT sends food and clothing to a recently established children's village.

Rumania

Oeuvre de Secours aux Enfants, a JDC supported agency, assists about 11,000 children in Rumania, 2,500 of whom are in children's homes. About 190 orphans live in an orphanage completely supported by the JDC, which gives general aid to about 26,000 children.

Spain

Since VJ-day a few hundred children have gone to Spain for temporary care. Soon after the liberation of Belgium 80 truckloads of food and clothing were sent to the children in that country by the Spanish Government. During the war, Spanish women made 150,000 garments which were sent to the Pope for distribution among needy children.

Sweden

Sweden's relief activities are coordinated by an official agency, the "Swedish Committee for International Relief Work" which administers government funds appropriated for relief activities and delegates the actual operation of relief activities to other groups.

From 1941 until October 1945, 52,000 Finnish children had spent a total of 27,000,000 days in Sweden. These children, most of whom lived in private homes, have been in Sweden for periods ranging from several months to 4 years. Some 24,000 are still there, but all will eventually return to Finland.

About 2,000 Norwegian children spent the summer of 1945 in Sweden; 2,000 Dutch children and 500 Belgian children came for the fall of 1945; 3,000 Norwegian children spent the winter of 1945–46 in the country; and 1,000 French children are in Sweden this summer. These children were and are supported by Swedish funds. They live with private families and are given clothing if they need it.

Medical and hospital care is available whenever necessary. The children go to regular Swedish schools and if possible are taught in their native languages.

In the summer of 1945, through arrangements with UNRRA, 10,000 displaced persons, including 1,200 children and youth the majority of whom were unaccompanied, arrived in Sweden. Many of this group were Jewish, and nationalities represented included Polish, Hungarian, Rumanian, and Czechoslovakian.

All these young people were first cared for by the government in schools and youth hostels and later in 15 "school-homes."

In May 1946, some 900 of this group were still in homes. Some others are in hospitals and convalescent homes. Some of those over 18 were probably holding jobs and living independently.

The greatest majority of the Jewish children in Sweden want to go to Palestine. A small group would like to come to relatives in the United States, while smaller groups are eager to return to their homelands or to remain permanently in Sweden.

Swedish relief for children in other European countries is carried on mainly in Poland, Austria, Germany, Norway, and Finland.

In Germany and Austria, Swedish relief operations are directed only to children. As of March of this year, 64,000 children in those countries had

received Swedish food. More than 1,000,000 meals had been served at a Swedish children's soup kitchen in Vienna. During the first half of this year, 100,000 small children were fed daily in Berlin, Hamburg, Vienna, and the Ruhr. This program stopped on July 1 and will be resumed in the fall.

Finnish children have been given food since the 1944 Finnish-Russian armistice.

In 1942, with the permission of the Allies and Germany, and under supervision, Sweden started a feeding program for Norway's children and aged. In 1945, 156,500 children were fed.

In addition, Norwegian children received gifts of 50,000 outfits of clothing and 75,000 pairs of shoes from Sweden.

Sweden supports children's homes in Belgium, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and France, and children's hospitals in Poland.

The RRT reports that it has brought adolescents from displaced-persons camps in Germany into Sweden for vocational training and general rehabilitation. Many of these children grew up in concentration camps and never had any schooling.

Switzerland

One million children in Europe, the numerical counterpart of Switzerland's child population, are being fed every day for a 6-week period during the current famine emergency with food exported from Switzerland.

This special project is underway in addition to the country's long-standing program of relief and rehabilitation for children of all nationalities.

In August 1942, the Swiss Relief Committee for Refugee Children was charged by the Swiss Government to take care of every "lonely child" under 16 who came to the country alone or with parents or relatives. From 1942 until the end of the war, some 4,800 children of 19 nationalities came under the Committee's protection and were housed with Swiss families, in special homes, or with their own families. About 1,280 of these children were unaccompanied. Since May 1945, 3,700 children have been able to leave Switzerland and have gone back to their homelands, to the United States, or to Palestine. The Committee is financially supportd by Swiss relief agencies and the JDC.

Immediately upon the end of hostilities in 1945, Switzerland revived its wartime plan of inviting groups of children to come to its country for a period of recuperation. Under this plan, children come to Switzerland for 3-month stays. They are taken in by private families or sent to special homes if their health demands it. From the beginning of this plan to date, some 80,000 children between the ages of 4 and 14 have been cared for in this way: 62,000 came from France; 5,600 from Belgium; 7,800 from Holland; 3,000 from Italy; and 7,000 from Austria. The first 1,000 German children of 3,000 children scheduled to come from the French zone, and the first 450 of a scheduled 4,000 children from the British zone are now in Switzerland. In the summer and fall of 1945, 425 children and youth who had been in concentration camps were brought to Switzerland. Most are still there. Two hundred British and four hundred Polish tubercular children are now in Switzerland for 6-month rest cures.

A new Pestalozzi Children's Village will be opened in Trogen in October. Three hundred and fifty orphans of foreign nationalities will live in the village which will contain educational and hospitalization facilities. Groups of three to five houses will be set aside for youngsters of similar nationality but all groups will mingle during recreation and off-hours.

Since 1940, the Swiss Red Cross has been operating mobile canteens in areas of France in which there were large concentrations of refugees. Child colonies, nurseries, homes for expectant mothers, and other institutions have been opened and maintained. Similar help has been organized and carried on in Belgium, Finland, Serbia, Croatia, and Italy.

Don Suisse, not government sponsored, a private agency through which Switzerland coordinates all of its relief activities, has operated in 15 countries since 1944. It has a representative in Berlin who has helped organize relief work in that city and, with the cooperation of Russian officials, in the Russian zone of occupation in Germany as well.

An idea of its operations for children can be gained from excerpts from its activities' report covering the period from February 16 to March 31 of this year.

During that 6-week period Don Suisse set up a good-sized food warehouse for children's homes in the Rhone-Alps region at Annemasse in France. A nurse was designated to visit each center to see what was needed and to check on use of the merchandise.

In Italy in the same period, provision was made to give supplementary food and clothing to 500 children in Florence during the months of March, April, and May. About 1,800 rations were distributed daily to mothers and children in the public kitchens and in 9 homes. (This is in collaboration with Caritas and UNRRA.) Don Suisse assistance made possible the reopening of a children's home in Trento run by the Swiss Committee for Aid to Italian Children which cares for 100 children. This assistance will continue for 6 months. Food was sent to children in Piedmont and to 500 children in Brescia.

In Austria, children's homes and centers were opened in Vienna and in lower Austria. Some 25,000 young children received care. In addition, 677 kilograms of wool and 20 sewing machines were sent to Austria to be used for the making of children's garments.

To Hungary went 25,000 kg. of julienne soup for the children of Budapest and other districts.

Material for the construction of 29 huts went to Poland. In a year 5,000 children will be able to spend 6-week vacation periods in them.

Relief activities for German children were organized at the end of 1945. Comprehensive child-care projects are in operation in the Rhineland and in Berlin and special attention goes to children of displaced persons.

The JDC reports that it helped support 2,000 children in Switzerland after their deportation from France, and that it had transported 300 children from Germany and Austria to Switzerland.

RRT reports that it operates a children's home near Zurich, and that since 1943 it has operated a rest home near Geneva where numbers of families, sheltered in separate places, may be reunited for brief periods.

Yugoslavia

JDC reports giving general relief services to about 1,000 children under 18.

UNRRA SHELTERS UNATTENDED CHILDREN

MARION E. HUTTON as told to GEORGE ELLISON

Until March 1946, Miss Hutton served as deputy director in establishing and operating the center for unaccompanied allied children at Kloster-Indersdorf, near Munich, Germany.

She began her social work career in 1936, being connected with public agencies until 1940 when she went with the USO-Travelers Aid which was establishing programs of services for people being dislocated by war industries and military service.

In 1943 while serving as director of USO-Travelers Aid at San Luis Obispo, Calif., she resigned to enter the Women's Army Corps. She was stationed for most of the year in Bradley Field, Conn. In December 1944, she was released to go overseas with UNRRA.

She joined UNRRA team No. 128 in France from where she went to Germany for her work with displaced children.

Mr. Ellison is a member of the staff of the Division of Reports.

I WANT you to think of a 15-year-old boy in your neighborhood. The son of the grocer in the next block for instance. Maybe you remember when he was born. At least you can remember when his brothers and sisters were born. Keep this boy in mind because I am going to tell you about such a boy.

He was 15 years old when the Nazis conquered his country. He was the oldest son of a tailor in Berbest, Rumania. Next to him was a sister, then two younger brothers, and the baby—a little girl.

In March of 1944, the Storm Troopers began arresting the Jews. They took the tailor and his family to the Oranienburg concentration camp. The baby was 2 then.

This 15-year-old boy saw his father shot to death. Then his mother and baby sister were taken to the gas chambers.

The Nazis didn't keep the four remaining children long at that camp, but with many other children, sent them to another at Auschwitz. After a month they were transferred to still another camp, Auschwitz 3. Their stay there was short, less than a month.

It was late winter when they were ordered to march again. Exhausted, the two smaller boys began to lag. The older boy and his sister tried to help by carrying the little ones. But the Nazis would not allow that. When the 15-year-old boy last saw his little brothers, they were huddled together on the roadside.

At the next camp—Gleiwiyz—the sis-

At the Kloster-Indersdorf Monastery, Bavaria, UNRRA Team 182 cares for 200 children at a time.





When Hitler came to power he drove the Sisters from their orphanage; when the war was over they came back to help UNRRA's children.

ter became lost from the boy. He had not found her or heard from her when he was moved to another camp. It was Oranienburg again—from which he had started his wanderings. He was kept there until February 1945, when he was sent to Flossenburg.

In April on the way to Dachau concentration camp, the American soldiers caught up with the marchers. The GI's took this young boy and cared for him in their billet until he was brought to an old monastery outside Munich where I first saw him.

It was there—in the eastern military district of the American zone in Germany—that UNRRA team No. 182, at the request of the Displaced Persons Division of the Third Army Rear, had set up an operational center for allied displaced children.

Since VE-day, nearly 9,000 boys and girls with experience similar to those of the 15-year-old Rumanian boy have been given care by UNRRA in unaccompanied children's centers in the United States and British occupied zones of Germany.

A year has passed since the liberation of these children and only comparatively few have been returned to the country of their origin or resettled in some other country. That no adequate opportunity has yet been provided for permanent settlement for a majority of these children is an international tragedy.

Besides unaccompanied children in centers in occupied Germany, approximately 51,000 displaced children under 14 years of age are living with their families or other responsible adults in displaced persons' camps. Nearly 27,000 of these children are under 6 years of age.

At the present time, the United States zone has 6 children's centers; the British zone 14.

Centers are set up in locations where the Allied Military Government—which has responsibility for the entire displaced persons' operation—finds that they are needed. UNRRA personnel supervises the centers.

The unaccompanied child—that is, the child who is alone and with no relatives or responsible adults to take care of him—was early recognized as the real problem of the displaced children.



↑ School doors were closed to these children for many years, but now they happily report for class before the bell rings each day.



↑ Thanks to UNRRA, they have a chance to undo ills of starvation. ↓ This "sewing bee" is only a few months from slave labor.



His legal rights and status are in question. Frequently not only his identity must be determined, but his nationality. Practically all such children are in need of convalescent or other specialized care.

In the British zone centers, unaccompanied children are placed in small homes near the regular assembly center, frequently in charge of displaced couples from their own country.

Unaccompanied children in the United States zone are placed in much larger numbers under one roof where it is easier to provide special child-care facilities.

Such a center is Kloster-Indersdorf, located near Dachau concentration camp, outside Munich, to which the 15-year-old Rumanian boy was brought. The building is centuries old. Originally a monastery, it was later converted into an orphanage by members of the Order of St. Vincent de Paul, who operated it until Hitler removed them in 1938.

When UNRRA took over the place, it still had some of the old orphanage equipment and this was put to use when it was opened to receive Allied displaced children in July of 1945. To assist in operating the center, UNRRA team No. 182 asked the Sisters to come back.

Nearly 200 are sheltered in the old monastery at one time. Almost any boy or girl there can match in horror and suffering the story of the 15-year-old son of the Rumanian tailor.

For instance, there were the two Polish boys of 16 who worked in the crematorium at Auschwitz, stoking the fires that would consume the bodies of those who had died or were killed in the night.

There was the Jewish boy of the same age whose job it was to cut down the bodies of those who had been hanged.

There was the 17-year-old girl who was forced to work from 12 to 18 hours making shell casings. When her work lagged she was given 25 lashes with a bull whip, and at times sprayed with cold water to prevent fainting.

As a result of their years of suffering and ill treatment, these young people tend to be keenly analytical of others' motives, and deeply apprehensive of any movement affecting themselves which is not fully understood. Even then, they maintain a reasonable degree of skepticism.

Kloster-Indersdorf is neither the largest nor smallest of the centers in the United States zone. Its work with the unaccompanied child is similar to that of Elizabethan Heim at Deggendorf, Struth near Amberg, Aglasterhausen at Ulm, Wartenburg near Wartenburg, and Wolfratzhausen in the town of Wolfratzhausen.

The main hope of those of us in charge of the children in those centers was to give them a home. But a home means more than food, shelter, and clothing. We worked not only for the physical welfare of the children, but also for their emotional welfare. Although we could not completely supply the greatest need of the individual child—that of home relationships—we tried to approximate it.

Our entire program and everything that we did was for the welfare of the child—that rather than for the convenience of national governments, agencies, or personnel of the center.

The older children spent a large part of each day in study. Whenever possible instruction was in the native language. However, some of the classes were conducted in German since most of the children spoke that language. Getting sufficient equipment for these schools—especially text books—was a serious problem.

In planning for their future, many of the children said they wanted to become cooks, or bakers, or tailors. Such choices were frequently made because those professions represent things that have often been denied them, such as food and clothing.

Agriculture and farming interested a great many of the children. They received training on 18 farms which were operated in connection with the centers in the United States zone.

From a weekly report of Kolster-Indersdorf, selected at random, some idea can be given of the nationality and age of the children. At the time of this report, the largest number from any one nation was Polish. Forty-seven were Jewish of various nationalities. The youngest Jewish child was a boy of 7. There was a gap of 7 years between this child and the other Jewish children.

Boys outnumbered girls in the Kloster-Indersdorf center. That, however, was not the case in all displaced children's centers. Certain sections of the British occupied zone had more girls than boys.

Of all the children at Kloster-Indersdorf, ages fell roughly into two main groups: those under 3 years, and those in their late teens. Few children of the in-between ages had survived the rigors of concentration camps, child labor, and other hazards of war conditions.

Twenty-two nationalities were in the center. In some instances nationality could be determined only roughly by name and racial characteristics. Among the nationalities were: Austrian, Belgian, Czechoslovakian, Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Polish, Rumanian, Russian, Ukranian, Yugoslavian, and one who claimed to be a citizen of the United States.

This boy, who was 14, said that his father was a nationalized citizen of this country. As a very young child, he had been brought to Germany to stay with his grandparents. The home of the grandparents had been bombed and efforts of the UNRRA staff to locate the grandparents had failed. The boy was able to give only a few leads as to the whereabouts of his father in this country. To date he has not been located.

Although all the children were without homes and unaccompanied by members of their families or other relatives, their wartime backgrounds made wide differences in their experiences.

Many who had been in concentration camps were the only member of their family still alive. For the most part, these were Jewish. Some had survived with a brother, a sister, or a cousin whom they had lost trace of and whom they made frantic efforts to locate. They were filled with anxieties about relatives and efforts being made to trace them, and apprehensive about their own future.

With very few exceptions they shared a deep-seated animosity to all Germans and all things German. When a group of these children was being transferred to England by air, the question asked most often was "Are we out of Germany yet?"

As each country was conquered the Nazis had gathered large numbers of non-Jewish children who were sent back to Germany to work in factories or on farms for the purpose of Germaniza-



↑ It takes a lot of mothering to make these young orphans happy. ↓



↓ Slowly the young girls learn how to mother their young charges.





↑ Group care has had to replace family care for these small tots.



↑ Clothes and questions ↓ are important as they begin a new life.



tion. These children, taken from parents and families, were placed under teachers and group leaders in Germany.

Thirty Polish girls at the center had had this experience. They were a part of a larger group from a village in Silesia. In January 1945, the Nazis took them from their school on the pretext that they were going on a "holiday." They were placed on farms in Germany.

When they were brought to the UNRRA center, most of them were in rags, all showed marked effects of malnutrition and mental anxiety. Their hair was a mat filled with lice. All had skin infections, two so seriously that they were unable to wear shoes. Their feet and legs were wrapped in dirty blood-stained gauze. Some were so confused that they thought themselves German.

Some of the children at the center told of experiences that were difficult to believe. Three Yugoslavian brothers, taken from their home in Serbia by Storm Troopers, had worked in several places in Germany. The stories of what they had seen—the methods used by the Germans in persecution and death—were of such nature that two UNRRA workers made independent effort to determine the probability of fantasy.

About 20 babies, children of mothers who had been taken to Germany to work on farms and who were not permitted to marry, were found in German foster homes, hospitals, and institutions. Many of them did not live long enough to be brought to the center. Those who were taken in by the center were usually in poor condition but responded favorably to care.

Another group at the center were children of allied displaced persons. Usually they were orphans or presumed to be so. Their parents had either died in Germany, been killed in bombings, or had been separated from them in the confusion of war conditions. Some of the children had been placed in an institution, foster home, or hospital temporarily. Their parents had not returned, possibly because of shifts in population or transportation breakdowns.

Nothing was known of one group of babies except the name and nationality of the mother, the given name of the baby, and the birth date.

These babies were children of Nazi fathers and girls of the various conquered nations. They had been gathered from Nazi maternity homes located through the conquered countries and Germany. Records of the institutions were not available at any time to local organizations and agencies. In fact, at the time of the liberation by the American Army, records were said to have been destroyed. Many of the infants suffered from malnutrition, emotional disturbance, neglect, and shock.

The children most recently brought to the centers were those who had been located by UNRRA searching teams which had scoured the United States zone for "Germanized" children. UNRRA workers believed that most of these children were transferred to Germany during 1943 and 1945.

Some of them had been brought to increase the German population, or to be developed into farm laborers. Some were refugees who had escaped the battle lines. They were found "hidden" in German homes and institutions. So well had the children been indoctrinated that only by patient detective work were searching teams able to disprove claims of German birth.

Most of the older children who were located were identifiable, but the majority of the rest were too young when they came to Germany to remember their true names and in some instances their nationalities.

After the children have been found, the UNRRA Central Tracing Bureau begins the work of locating families. Allied liaison officers determine the repatriation status of the children. Although most of those identified are Polish, also found are Czechoslovakian, Hungarian, Yugoslav, and Ukrainian children.

With the tapping of these "hidden" sources of allied children, the number of unaccompanied children in the United States zone is steadily increasing, despite the repatriation and immigration programs which are already underway.

In addition to the groups already arrived in the United States, 800 Polish children are awaiting rail transportation for their return to Poland. The Polish Red Cross is supervising their repatriation.

Fifty Jewish children are now ready to go to England on individual visas to

join relatives in the United Kingdom. Last fall England received from the American zone 100 Jewish children for temporary care pending resettlement.

A majority of the 400 unaccompanied children transferred to Switzerland for recuperation are now in the process of repatriation or immigration from that country. Included in this group are about 50 Polish children who will return to Poland by the train that is to bring 400 ill Polish children to Switzerland to recuperate.

Children in the group in Switzerland who as yet are unidentified—a very small number—will be returned to occupied territory where UNRRA will try to establish their identity and arrange for their repatriation and immigration.

The largest individual group to go from the centers to new homes is composed of approximately 600 Jewish children who went to Palestine on entry permits.

These children, ranging in age from 3 to 19 years, traveled by train from the occupied territory to Marseilles, France, from where by boat they sailed for Haifa. Most of them plan to join collectives in their new country.

The trip across Germany and France to the port took 4 nights and 3 days. The poorly equipped train was cold, windows were broken, drinking water was carried by UNRRA workers in dairy pails, and the only places to sleep were on the hard, uncushioned seats. But the children were in high spirits. At each stop of the train as they crossed Germany, in the station yardway they sang and danced Palestinian songs and dances. The hostile air of the German people along the route did not change. In fact, the train traveled in a hostile country until it entered France. The French people not only cheered the dancing and singing of the children but brought food and water to the train. Food is as scarce in France as it is in Germany.

When one of the UNRRA workers regretted that the trip was being made under such hardships, the children—some of them veterans of as many as eight concentration camps — laughed. They said: "It is nothing. Hardships? It is worth them all. We are going home."

A NATION CARES FOR ITS OWN

ZLATKO BALOKOVIC, President, *American Committee for Yugoslav Relief*

Displaced children—unaccompanied children living outside their own country—present problems which do not arise among children living in their own country, under the care of their own government. But the number of displaced children is small compared with the millions left homeless and orphans by the war. The countries of Europe which have been most devastated by the war, which have suffered the greatest loss of buildings and equipment, also face an enormous problem in the mass care of children. Millions must be housed at once, and many of them will have to develop personal and social patterns without the normal family contacts. The situation in Yugoslavia, described by Mr. Balokovic of the American Committee for Yugoslav Relief, illustrates the problems being faced in many parts of Europe today.—*Ed.*

TODAY, Yugoslavia is a country of 14 million people—about one-tenth the population of the United States—and it is faced with the problem of caring for 1,200,000 orphan or half-orphan children under 15 years of age. These children should have security—a place where they feel they belong, intimate contact with adults who know them and love them and will remain with them, an orderly life built around school work. All these things must be supplied if this generation of Yugoslavia's children is to grow into healthy, useful citizens. But there are certain material needs which must be met before these problems can be touched.

First, the children must housed. And there are no buildings. Houses and entire villages have been destroyed in all parts of Yugoslavia. Some have been bombed and some have been dynamited by the Germans as acts of reprisal. In the most affected area there is not one building standing along a 125-mile stretch of highway. The children must also be fed. And there is very little food in Yugoslavia.

A few months ago—the latest date for which I have any figures—20,000 children had been sent into Bulgaria where food is more plentiful. They are to remain there until they put on a little weight and then return to their own country. Other children had been moved from the badly damaged areas in southern Yugoslavia to the slightly

more prosperous northern section. Shelter had been provided for a bare 16,500.

The need for shelter of any kind is so great that other factors—comfort, mental health, or even rudimentary hygiene—cannot be considered. Any family that has a roof at all takes as many children as can possibly be stowed among them. Frequently these families cannot afford to feed or dress the children and the government must do that for them. In some places large buildings that have been partially destroyed have been made into temporary orphanages. Here the children sleep on straw placed on tiers of wooden shelves. Others are being housed in army tents and barracks.

One sometimes forgets that when buildings are destroyed the materials in them are destroyed too. But in Yugoslavia the ordinary household furnishings—bedding and cooking pans, spoons, bowls, cups—are harder to find than shelter. There is practically no equipment in these children's barracks. There is, on an average, 1 spoon for 20 children, 1 cup for 50. And there is no soap at all. It is impossible to prevent the spread of mouth infections. And the children are so weak that simple diseases, such as measles, are often fatal.

When villages were destroyed and populations scattered, children who became separated from their parents tended to attach themselves to the Army. Boys who would be considered very young in America—10 and 11 years old—carried guns and engaged in regular fighting. Still younger children were used to carry messages, which they memorized. The casualties were great. There are 10,000 children under 15 years of age who have lost a limb. One 11-year-old Army courier has asked me to send him an arm from America. A large number of small children have been blinded by mines. These casualties require long-time care and expensive equipment. And they do not have the doctors or equipment to meet the more acute needs. They have 12,000 children with diseases of the bones and joints and only 700 hospital beds set aside for such cases. They have 150,000 open cases of tuberculosis and 5,000 beds for them.

In the large cities of the United States we have, on the average, 1 doctor to every 700 persons and in only one-third of the counties of the United States are there fewer doctors than 1 to 2,000. In Yugoslavia there is 1 doctor to 4,500 people and they are concentrated in areas where there are hospitals and other equipment. Great stretches of country have no medical service at all. In one place an English woman doctor, with 2 nurses, is operating a mobile clinic and serving 20,000 people.

Under the circumstances I have described, psychiatric services may seem like a luxury they could not afford. But they also have a pressing mental-health problem. One-third of the homeless children of Yugoslavia have been in concentration camps. The number is as small as it is because children did not live very long under those conditions. They were crushed physically and mentally and died in large numbers. In one camp, taken over at the close of hostilities, 1,500 children were found alive among the unburied dead. In order to care for these children, it was necessary to move them to a less devastated part of the country. Five hundred died while being moved, and another 300 soon after they reached their new home.

These children are physically sick and badly shocked. They cannot realize that a change has taken place. Their nights are disturbed by frightful nightmares from which they wake screaming. Most commonly they dream of fire—burning homes and burning villages. During the day they are apathetic, and utterly listless. I was told of one little girl who was taken by the Germans when she was 8 years old and kept in solitary confinement for 3 years because she would not tell where her parents were. This child, like many others from

A Yugoslav child, who cannot understand death, cries for the love and attention he used to know.



the concentration camps, will not put out her hands when food is offered to her because she was frequently tortured by having food set before her and taken away as soon as she reached for it.

Beyond doubt, these children are the worst casualties of the war. So much will have to be done for them if they are to be brought back to life. And so little is known about such states of mind that the best plans for them can only be guesswork.

Reports are reaching the United States that the people of Europe are "tired"—that faced with the wreckage of everything they loved, they cannot find the energy to start again. This is a very understandable reaction to calamity, but it is not an inevitable one. It is not true every place. And it is not true in Yugoslavia. An enormous need sometimes crushes men, but it may also have the very opposite effect. The unprecedented demand may release a great creative impulse. This is what has happened in Yugoslavia. Today the people are working with an energy inconceivable under better circumstances.

This applies to children as well as adults. Those children who were not in concentration camps may be maimed, or malnourished, but they do not present problems in mental hygiene. They are carrying responsibilities and performing an amount of physical labor that would be unthinkable in the United States. But they are doing it gladly. They know that they are effective members of their communities. And this offsets many of the evils we normally associate with child labor.

To begin with, these children are more mature than American children of the same ages. In Yugoslavia full suffrage is granted at 18 years of age, not at 21 as in the United States, and to all citizens who have borne arms, regardles of age. They have 10,000 children between 13 and 18 years of age who are entitled to vote. There were 14-year-old lieutenants in the Army. And even much younger children are used to a great deal of responsibility. A friend of mine tells me that her 9-year-old son was active in a resistance organization. She learned this indirectly, not through the boy who did not tell his mother what he was doing because the knowledge was too dangerous.

These children are now carrying shovels as proudly as they carried guns. They are helping to clear away the rubble of cities. Last summer children as young as 7 were helping to pull the plows. The children of Yugoslavia enjoy sport as much as American children but the work of clearing and plowing is so important that there is no time for sport. Under these circumstances the children are finding in work a great many of the satisfactions they would normally find in games.

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more prosperous northern section. Shelter had been provided for a bare 16,500.

The need for shelter of any kind is so great that other factors—comfort, mental health, or even rudimentary hygiene—cannot be considered. Any family that has a roof at all takes as many children as can possibly be stowed among them. Frequently these families cannot afford to feed or dress the children and the government must do that for them. In some places large buildings that have been partially destroyed have been made into temporary orphanages. Here the children sleep on straw placed on tiers of wooden shelves. Others are being housed in army tents and barracks.

One sometimes forgets that when buildings are destroyed the materials in them are destroyed too. But in Yugoslavia the ordinary household furnishings—bedding and cooking pans, spoons, bowls, cups—are harder to find than shelter. There is practically no equipment in these children's barracks. There is, on an average, 1 spoon for 20 children, 1 cup for 50. And there is no soap at all. It is impossible to prevent the spread of mouth infections. And the children are so weak that simple diseases, such as measles, are often fatal.

When villages were destroyed and populations scattered, children who became separated from their parents tended to attach themselves to the Army. Boys who would be considered very young in America—10 and 11 years old—carried guns and engaged in regular fighting. Still younger children were used to carry messages, which they memorized. The casualties were great. There are 10,000 children under 15 years of age who have lost a limb. One 11-year-old Army courier has asked me to send him an arm from America. A large number of small children have been blinded by mines. These casualties require long-time care and expensive equipment. And they do not have the doctors or equipment to meet the more acute needs. They have 12,000 children with diseases of the bones and joints and only 700 hospital beds set aside for such cases. They have 150,000 open cases of tuberculosis and 5,000 beds for them.

In the large cities of the United States we have, on the average, 1 doctor to every 700 persons and in only one-third of the counties of the United States are there fewer doctors than 1 to 2,000. In Yugoslavia there is 1 doctor to 4,500 people and they are concentrated in areas where there are hospitals and other equipment. Great stretches of country have no medical service at all. In one place an English woman doctor, with 2 nurses, is operating a mobile clinic and serving 20,000 people.

Under the circumstances I have described, psychiatric services may seem like a luxury they could not afford. But they also have a pressing mental-health problem. One-third of the homeless children of Yugoslavia have been in concentration camps. The number is as small as it is because children did not live very long under those conditions. They were crushed physically and mentally and died in large numbers. In one camp, taken over at the close of hostilities, 1,500 children were found alive among the unburied dead. In order to care for these children, it was necessary to move them to a less devastated part of the country. Five hundred died while being moved, and another 300 soon after they reached their new home.

These children are physically sick and badly shocked. They cannot realize that a change has taken place. Their nights are disturbed by frightful nightmares from which they wake screaming. Most commonly they dream of fire—burning homes and burning villages. During the day they are apathetic, and utterly listless. I was told of one little girl who was taken by the Germans when she was 8 years old and kept in solitary confinement for 3 years because she would not tell where her parents were. This child, like many others from

A Yugoslav child, who cannot understand death, cries for the love and attention he used to know.



the concentration camps, will not put out her hands when food is offered to her because she was frequently tortured by having food set before her and taken away as soon as she reached for it.

Beyond doubt, these children are the worst casualties of the war. So much will have to be done for them if they are to be brought back to life. And so little is known about such states of mind that the best plans for them can only be guesswork.

Reports are reaching the United States that the people of Europe are "tired"—that faced with the wreckage of everything they loved, they cannot find the energy to start again. This is a very understandable reaction to calamity, but it is not an inevitable one. It is not true every place. And it is not true in Yugoslavia. An enormous need sometimes crushes men, but it may also have the very opposite effect. The unprecedented demand may release a great creative impulse. This is what has happened in Yugoslavia. Today the people are working with an energy inconceivable under better circumstances.

This applies to children as well as adults. Those children who were not in concentration camps may be maimed, or malnourished, but they do not present problems in mental hygiene. They are carrying responsibilities and performing an amount of physical labor that would be unthinkable in the United States. But they are doing it gladly. They know that they are effective members of their communities. And this offsets many of the evils we normally associate with child labor.

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IF THERE IS TO BE HOPE

The articles in this special number of THE CHILD portray vividly and with great poignancy the children who with courage, dignity, and resourcefulness have endured persecution, torture, and grief beyond anything the modern world has known. To come to know them even through the written page gives renewed faith in the resiliency and essential goodness of human nature. These young people have become mature beyond their years, yet they are groping for satisfactions of childhood's basic needs—security, affection, a sense of belonging; and opportunity for growth, for self-improvement, for a chance in the world.

We in the United States, whose children have been sheltered and protected during these years of oppression and war, have the great privilege of providing new homes and a fresh chance to some of these war victims. The number is pitifully small measured against the need, but each one given a chance to realize his longing for a home, for folks, for an education, represents a triumph of light over darkness. We must open our doors to as many without families of their own as desire to come and can be admitted under governmental and intergovernmental policies.

In far greater numbers, the children who must remain overseas call to us for aid through governmental and voluntary channels. They need food first of all, and then whatever assistance can be given in reestablishing them in home and community life. In addition to services by UNRRA the record of the aid given by voluntary agencies in the United States, by Sweden and Switzerland, and especially by countries which, though severely damaged by war and occupation, have shared their meagre resources with the children of countries in a still more desperate plight, are impressive. Yet all that has been done is tragically little in the light of the appalling numbers of homeless and suffering children and youth. It is imperative that more adequate assistance be given through comprehensive plans developed under international governmental auspices.

It is, of course, essential that all services for the children of war-devastated lands be based upon full understanding of the needs of children, the conditions under which they are now living, and the experiences to which they were subjected during war and occupation. Such concern must extend to children of former enemy as well as formerly occupied lands, for children everywhere must be given their chance at life, hope, and fulfillment if there is to be hope of peace and security for our world.

How to overcome the bodily damage and the stunted development resulting from years of deprivation and underfeeding are matters for the physician, the nurse, the nutritionist, and the social worker.

Even more difficult are the problems involved in overcoming the family and social deprivations that have stunted and twisted the minds and spirits of millions of youth.

We have learned much, in the period between the two world wars, of the secrets of mental and emotional life and the ways in which maladjusted individuals can be helped to develop normal ties and socially desirable attitudes. Many different professions have contributed to this understanding, and much money has been invested in making possible the practice of mental hygiene and social service. Let us mobilize all possible resources to bring to the assistance of the peoples and the governments of the countries devastated by war the fruits of modern knowledge and skill, sure that in serving their great need we shall be enriching our heritage of understanding and of skill.

Beyond all, the lives of the children written about in these pages and the deaths of countless numbers of their generation should engrave indelibly upon the conscience of mankind the terrible effect of modern war upon the innocent, and the necessity of building a just and lasting peace.

Katharine F. Lenroot

Chief, Children's Bureau.

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